As an interim measure DTS had suggested some time back provision of Telecom facilities to Govt. of AP through its existing VSAT based network called HVNET. The proposal is still under consideration of the Govt. of AP and the Planning Commission.

Projects for Promotion and Protection of 'Satras' in Assam

2647. DR. (SMT) JOYASHREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project has been contemplated by Government for protection, preservation and promotion of the "Satras" of Assam under Clause VI of the Assam Accord; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Implementation of Recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission

2648. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a consensus was arrived at between the Union Leaders of the Central Government Employees and the Central Government with regard to deferring the decision on some of the recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission at the time of implementation of its report;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to fixing the pension at additional rate of one per cent per year to the employees who have rendered more than 33 years of service; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) had submitted a 15-point charter of demands generally pertaining to the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission requiring immediate consideration of the Government. Based on the discussions of these demands,

an Agreed Settlement was reached between Secretary (Staff Side), National Council (JCM) and the Government on 11th September, 1997 for acceptance of general recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission relating to pay and allowances, etc. with certain modifications for immediate implementation, while some of the demands, were not accepted. In respect of other demands, the Government agreed to examine the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission on its merits and take decisions accordingly. There was, however, no agreement on deferring consideration of any of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission indefinitely.

(c) and (d) No decision with regard to fixing the pension at additional rate of one per cent per year to the employees who have rendered more than 33 years of service has yet been taken by the Government.

Sanctioning of projects for development of market infrastructure

2649. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to sanction the three projects amounting to Rs. 26.62 crores on development of market infrastructure and rural marketing services from NEC and RID fund in NABARD as submitted by Government of Tripura for development of rural market infrastructure on account of poor rural market infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, by when it will be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Tripura had submitted a project for development of rural markets and establishment of cold storage facility in the State with financial assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDE). The total amount of the project was Rs. 14.62 crores. The proposal was subsequently revised to Rs. 10.62 crores with loan assistance of Rs. 9.56 crore from RIDF. However, the project was not considered for sanction by the Projects Sanctioning Committee in its meeting as the setting up of cold storage is a commercial activity. As regards the sanction of market yard project, the Committee felt that such project could be executed and implemented by the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee or by similar bodies set up under the Act. NABARD has intimated its decision to the Government of Tripura in September, 1999.